

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 and 11-40 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 4, 6-9, 12 and 14-40 stand withdrawn. By this Amendment, claim 2 is amended to correct a minor informality and the abstract is amended. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) and satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to an objection raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the abstract for exceeding 150 words and alleged informalities. The Abstract has been amended to obviate these objections. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 5 are objected to for an informality. Claim 2 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 5, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 11-224043 to Tanabe et al. ("Tanabe"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 recites a process of "projecting the laser beam for reproduction...onto the deposited holographic recording layers, the diffraction beams generated in the respective holographic recording layers at the same time by the projected beam are detected by two-dimensional photodetectors a number of which is equal to that of the holographic recording layers." Claim 11 recites a similar feature. Tanabe does not disclose or suggest this feature.

The Office Action concedes that Tanabe does not disclose this feature. Rather, the Office Action asserts this feature would be obvious because it would involve mere

duplication of parts. The Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to have the same number of holographic layers and two-dimensional photodetectors "so that the different photodetectors could simultaneously detect different layers to reproduce the data of a specific location on a card under examination." But this assertion lacks merit because Tanabe specifically discloses that the number of photodetectors is controlled by an unrelated factor.

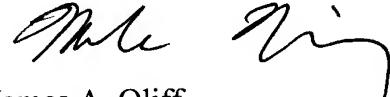
Tanada discloses a system which has a field luminescence laser diode (LD) array and a photodiode (PD) array. See [0018] of Tanada. The Office Action appears to assert these photodiodes correspond to the recited photodetectors. But Tanada explicitly recites that the photodiodes counter each laser diode. See [0018] of Tanada. In other words, the number of photodiodes is controlled by the number of laser diodes in the LD array. As such, it would not have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill, to have the same number of holographic layers and two-dimensional photodetectors, as asserted by the Office Action. Rather, those of ordinary skill in the art would have believed that the number of photodiodes (the alleged photodetectors) must be controlled based on the number of laser diodes.

As such, Tanada does not disclose or suggest the recited features of claims 2 or 11. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 11, and claims 5 and 13 depending therefrom, is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amended Abstract

Date: August 20, 2009

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